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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 30 October 1998 from the Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Enclosed please find the text of note verbale No. HC-40-98 dated 30 October 1998 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations (see annex), responding to the latter's note verbale No. 564 dated 6 October 1998, regarding restrictions of vehicular access to the United Nations during the general debate at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

I kindly request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Robert C. **Moller**

98-33125 (E) 041198

Annex

Note verbale dated 30 October 1998 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations and has the honour to respond to the latter's note verbale No. 564 dated 6 October 1998, regarding the "considerable restrictions of vehicle access to the United Nations during the general debates at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly". In addition, the United States Mission to the United Nations takes this opportunity to thank the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation for instructing all of its members to observe strictly the rules communicated in our note verbale No. HC-32-98.

The United States Mission to the United Nations, however, regrets that protective security measures undertaken by host country law enforcement authorities were "at variance with several provisions of note verbale No. HC-32-98". According to the host country law enforcement authorities, some changes in the procedures were implemented by ongoing security concerns and others, such as the parking on First Avenue from 51st to 57th streets, were caused by bureaucratic mistakes.

The United States Mission is concerned that these measures were not always implemented as outlined in its note verbale No. HC-32-98 and United Nations information circulars ST/IC/1998/59 dated 21 August 1998 and ST/IC/1998/62 dated 11 September 1998. The United States Mission has already held several meetings with the pertinent city, state and federal agencies to discuss the shortcomings of these measures, and will continue to plan with those agencies to avoid similar problems in the future. The United States Mission again sincerely regrets any confusion and/or inconvenience caused by the variance between the procedures outlined in the notes verbales and those actually put into practice.

The United States Mission to the United Nations also wants to take this opportunity to explain the eleventh hour distribution of the note dated 18 September 1998. This note was sent in an effort to reach the offices of all permanent missions and observers, the majority of which were not represented at a meeting held in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in the afternoon of 17 September 1998, where law enforcement authorities of the Host Government were present to discuss and explain the procedures to be implemented during this period.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.